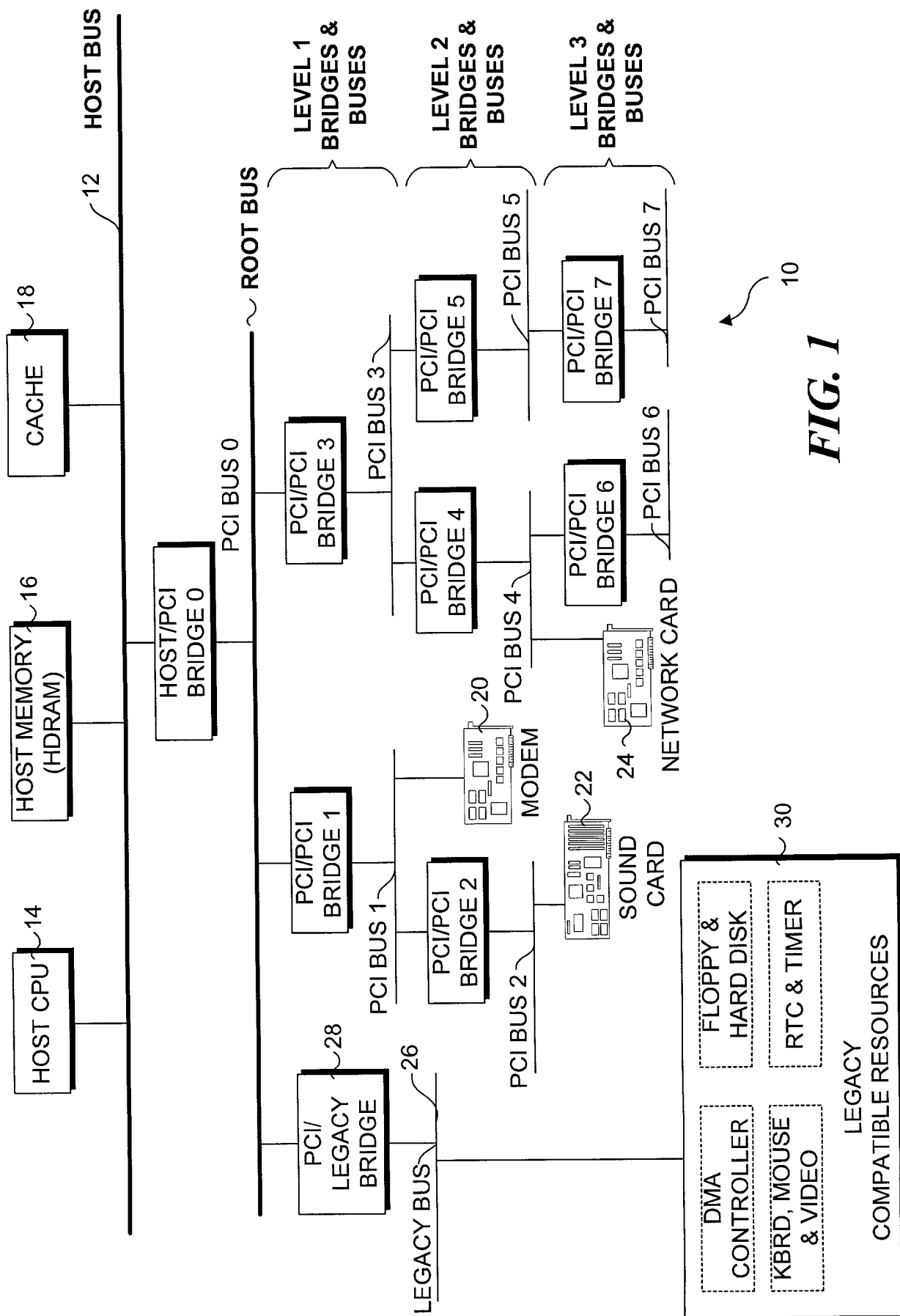


FIG. 1 is a block diagram of a computer system architecture showing a hierarchical bus structure. The system includes a Host CPU (14), Host Memory (HDRAM) (16), and Cache (18) connected to a Host Bus (12). A Host/PCI Bridge (0) connects the Host Bus to a Root Bus. The Root Bus is connected to PCI BUS 0, which branches into three levels of bridges and buses: Level 1 (PCI/PCI Bridge 1, 2, 3), Level 2 (PCI/PCI Bridge 4, 5), and Level 3 (PCI/PCI Bridge 6, 7). A Legacy Bus (26) is connected to the Root Bus via a PCI/Legacy Bridge (28). The Legacy Bus connects to Legacy Compatible Resources (30), which include DMA Controller, KBRD, MOUSE & VIDEO, FLOPPY & HARD DISK, and RTC & TIMER. A Network Card (24) is connected to PCI BUS 4. A Modem (20) is connected to PCI BUS 2. A Sound Card (22) is connected to PCI BUS 2. The diagram is labeled FIG. 1 and includes a reference numeral 10.



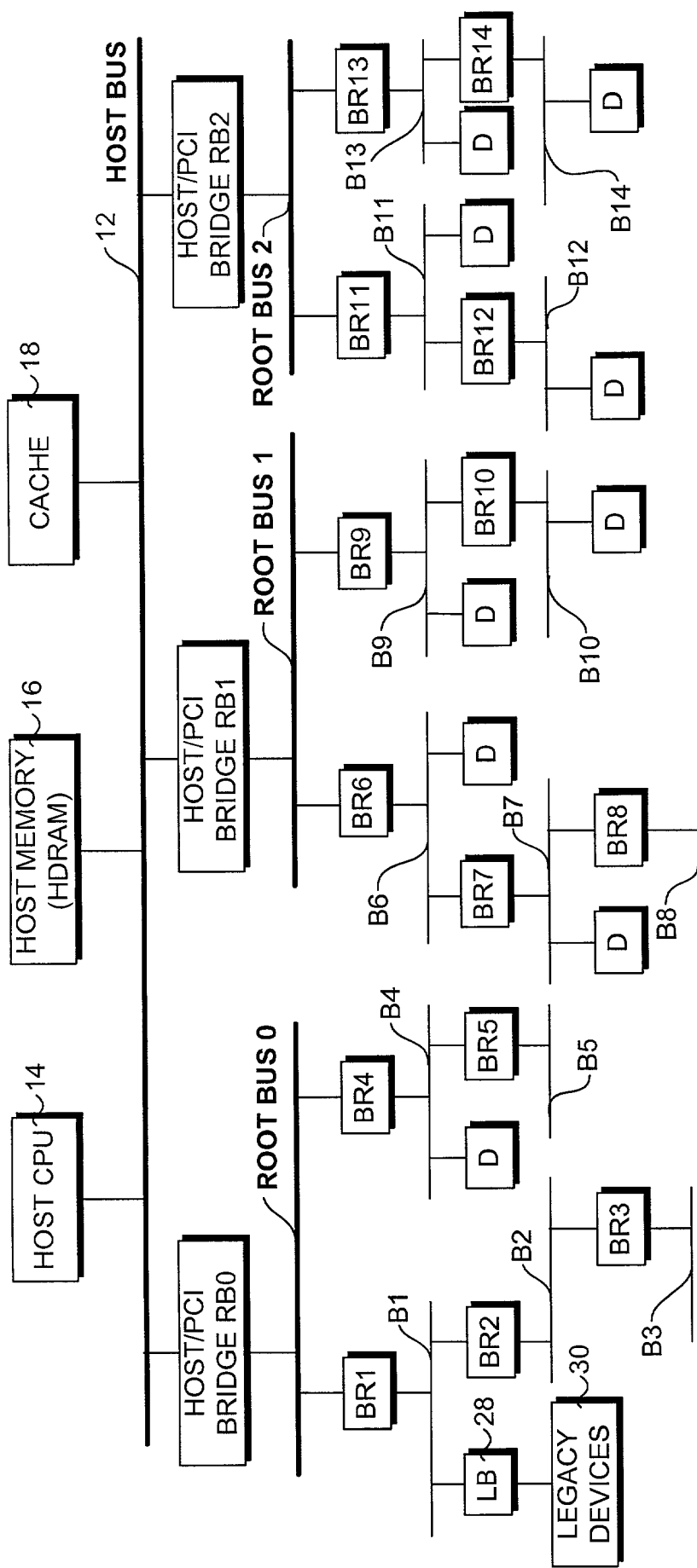


FIG. 2

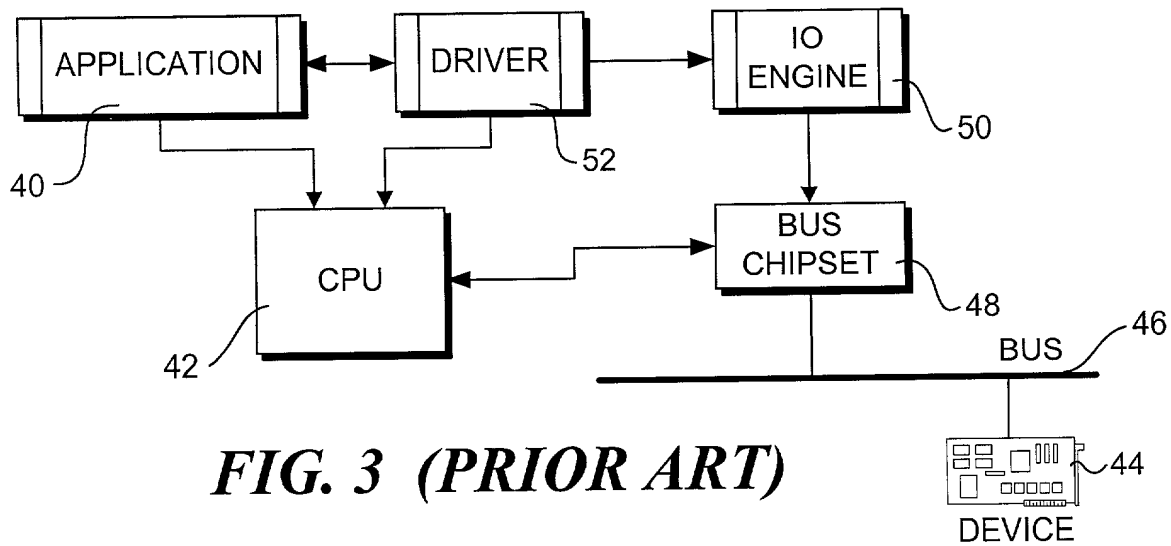


FIG. 3 (PRIOR ART)

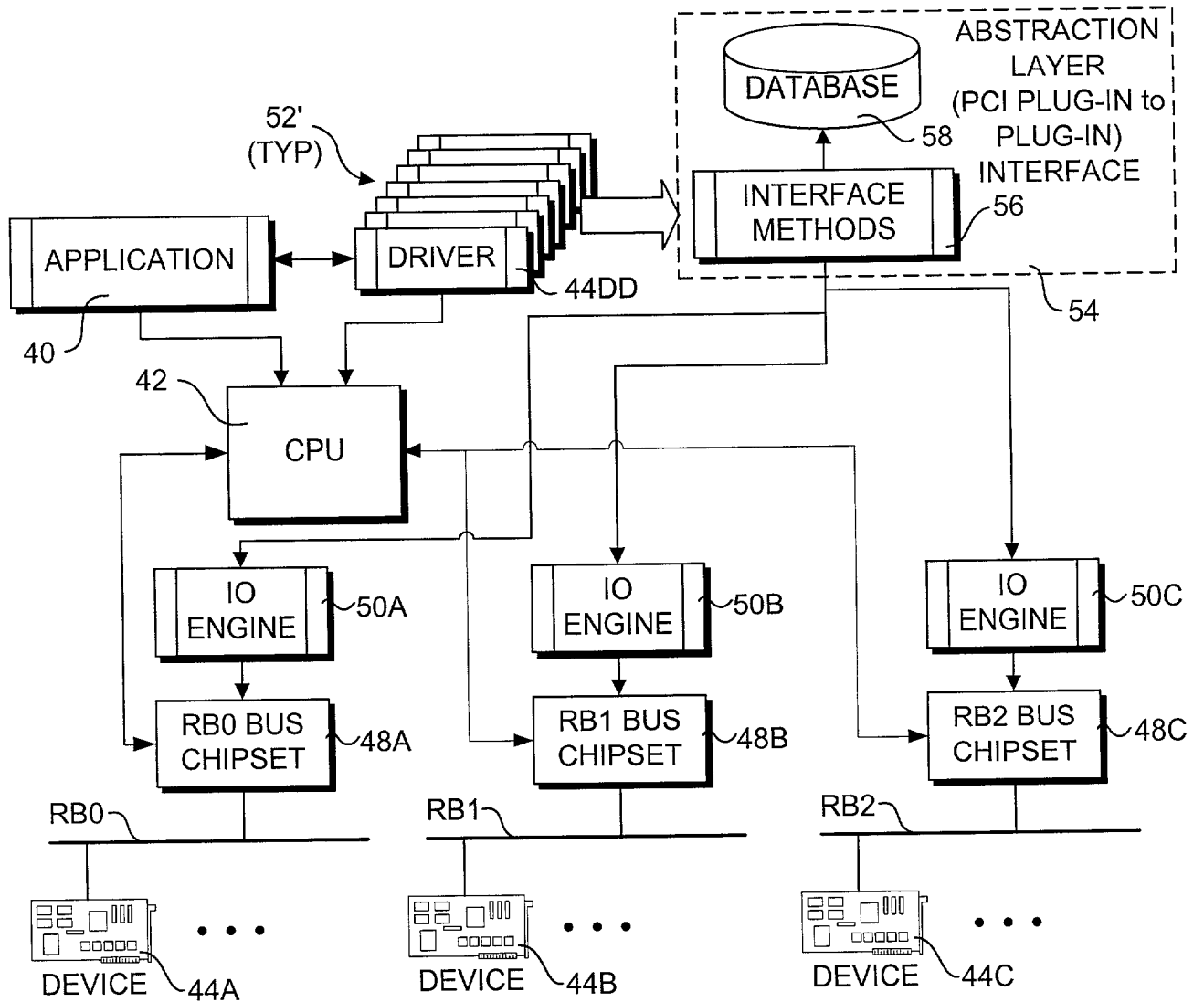


FIG. 4

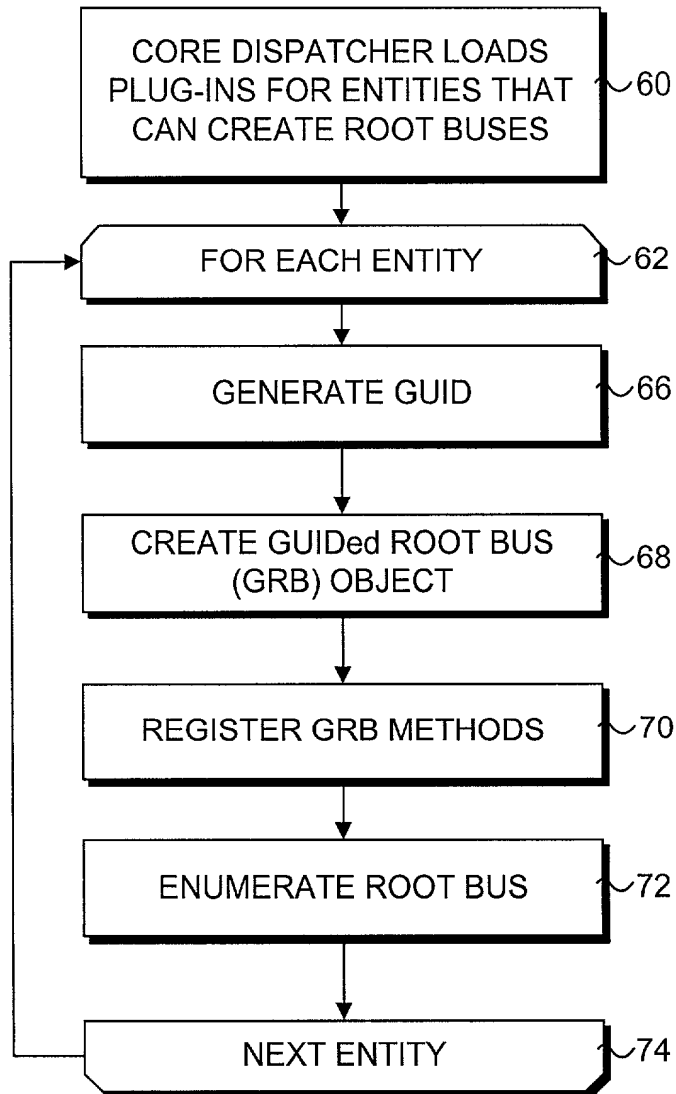
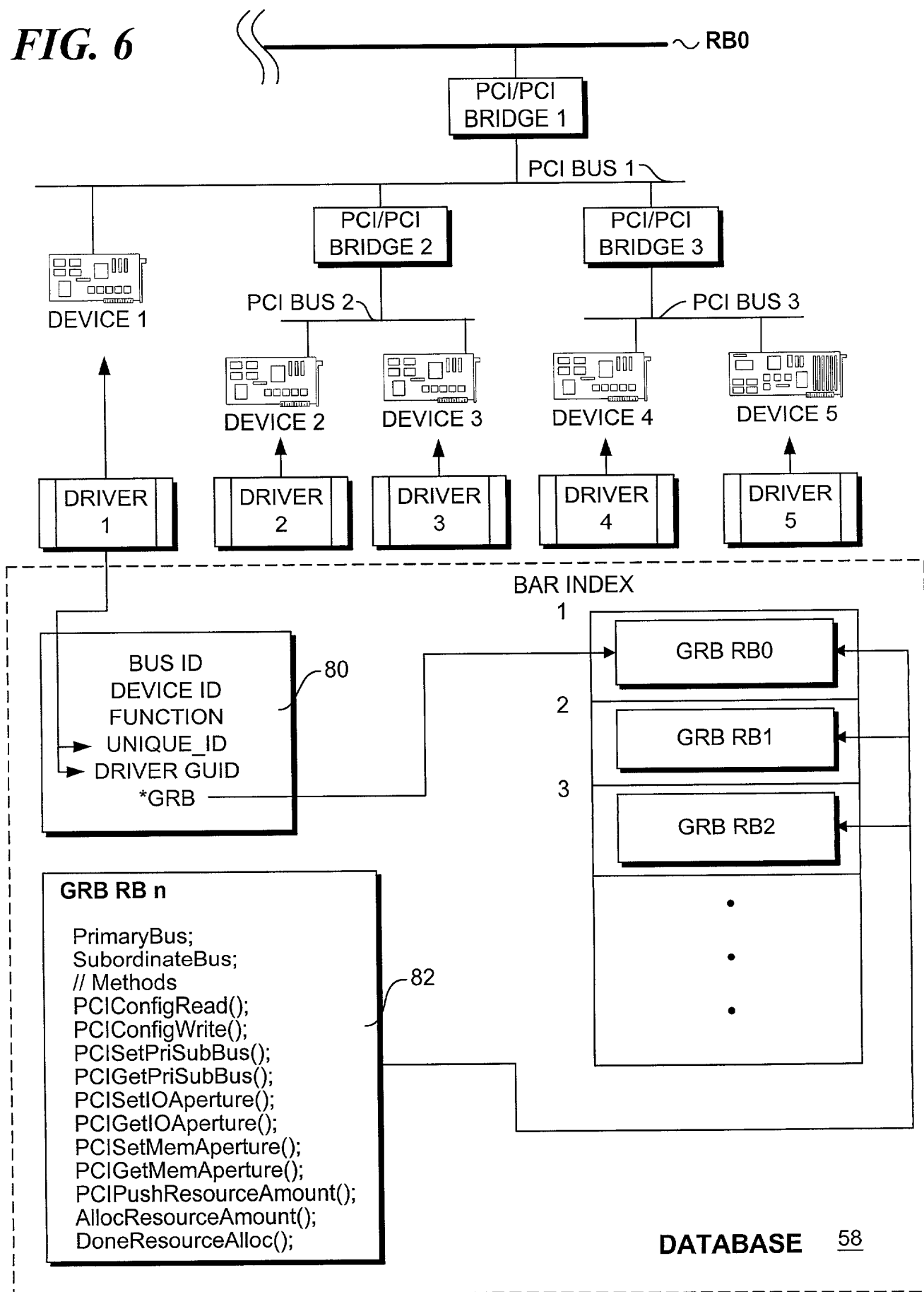


FIG. 5

FIG. 6



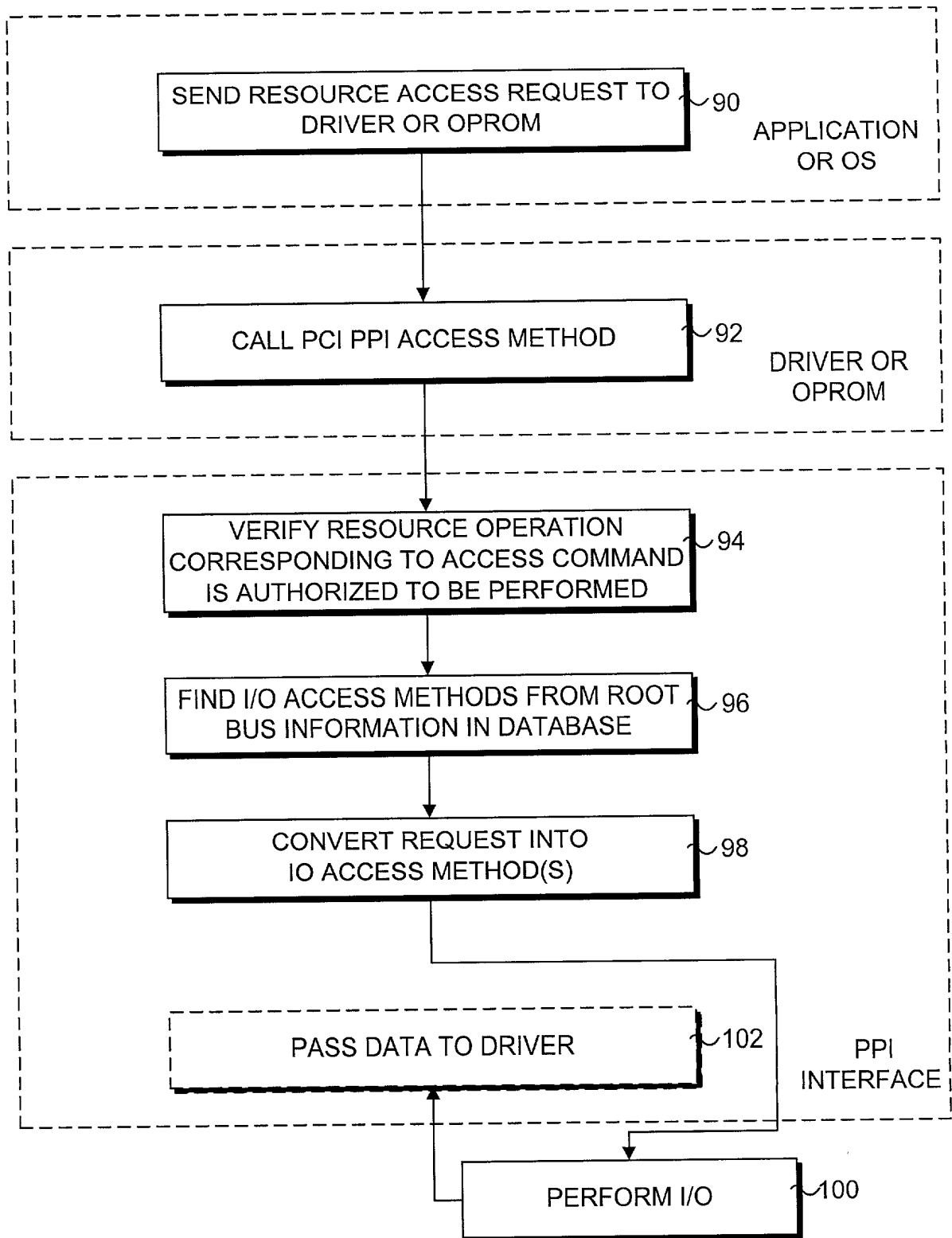


FIG. 7

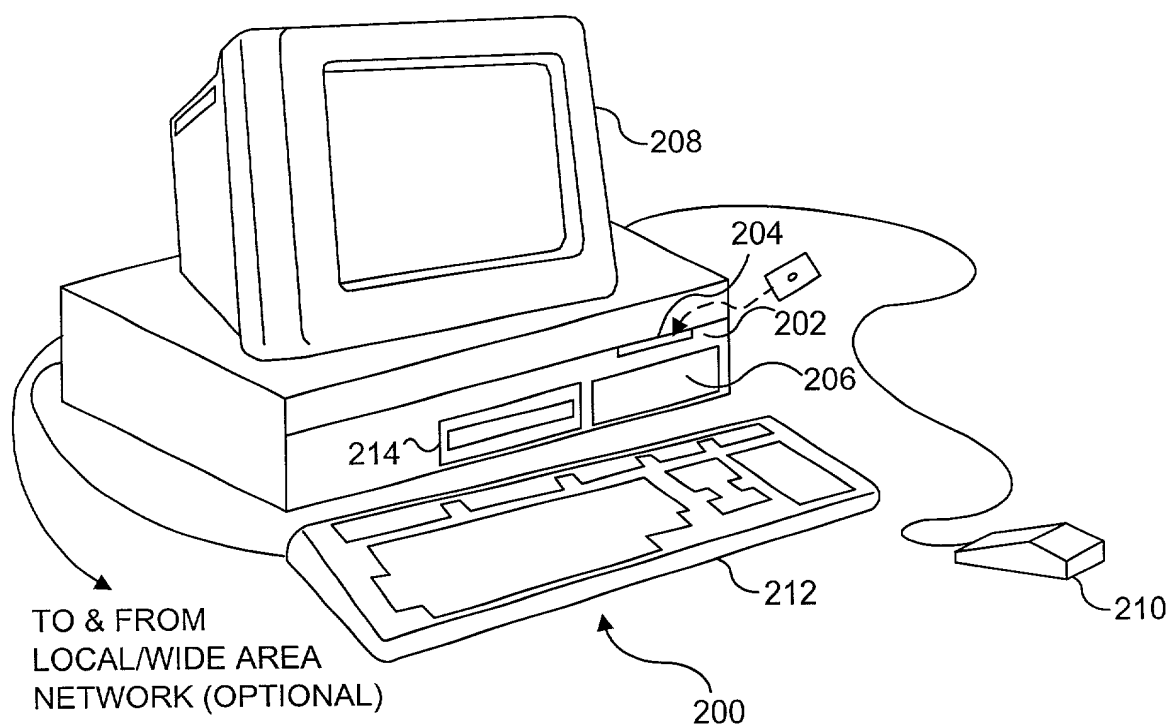


FIG. 8